

Grade 7 Scoring Standard for Expository Writing					January 2006
Expository writing explains or informs. Expository paragraphs state facts, give directions, explain ideas, or define terms. An expository essay will have an introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.	4 Advanced: Exceeds Standards	3 Proficient: Meets Standards	2 Basic: Below Standards	1 Below Basic: Significantly Below Standards	
	The score indicates the student’s response to a particular prompt on a particular day.				
	This paper is advanced and above grade level. It demonstrates an understanding of expository writing. The writer’s use of language contributes to the development of an engaging piece of writing.	This paper is proficient and at grade level. It demonstrates an understanding of expository writing. The writer’s use of language contributes to the development of a clear and concise essay.	This paper is basic and below grade level. It demonstrates a basic understanding of expository writing. The writer’s use of language results in a paper that is underdeveloped.	This paper is below basic and significantly below grade level. It demonstrates fundamental deficiencies in the writer’s understanding of expository writing. It may be written off topic, written in a language other than English, or not written in black ink.	
	4 This paper generally exhibits the characteristics listed below.	3 This paper generally exhibits the characteristics listed below.	2 This paper generally exhibits the characteristics listed below.	1 This paper generally exhibits the characteristics listed below.	
Ideas Ideas are the focus of the essay that, with relevant supporting details, build the reader’s understanding.	Develops ideas well and uses specific, relevant details across the response. Information is deliberately organized to enhance the central idea and move the reader through the text. Voice and word choice are powerful and confident, demonstrating an awareness of audience. Sentences flow smoothly with consistently strong and varied structure. Minor errors in grammar, spelling and conventions do not interfere with understanding.	Clearly developed ideas with supporting details. Information is presented in a logical sequence with natural transitions. Voice and word choice are appropriate for topic and audience. Control over varied sentence construction contributes to sentence fluency. Errors in grammar, spelling and conventions do not interfere with understanding.	Ideas are unclear and/or underdeveloped; details lack relevance. Information is presented as a list or as disconnected ideas. Simplistic word choice; lacks voice and audience awareness. Attempts at basic sentence construction demonstrate limited control and inhibit fluency. Errors in grammar, spelling and conventions may interfere with understanding.	Attempts a response, but lacks focus and details. Little or no control over organization. Limited or inaccurate word choice; no awareness of audience. Little or no control over sentence construction and fluency. Errors in grammar, spelling and conventions make understanding difficult.	
Organization Organization, the internal structure of a piece of writing, includes the introduction, body, and conclusion. Additionally, transitions within the writing connect the ideas in a logical sequence.					
Voice Voice is the presence of the writer on the page. It is the sense that a real person who cares about the message is speaking to the reader. Word Choice Word Choice is the precise use of words. Strong word choice is characterized by the ability to use common words effectively.					
Sentence Fluency Effective sentence construction creates an easy flow and rhythm to the writing. The writing is free of awkward word patterns that interfere with readability.					
Conventions Conventions (grammar and usage, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing) are the mechanical correctness of a piece of writing.					